

CORRESPONDENCE

Two new species of the genus *Micropeplus* Latreille (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae) from Sichuan, China

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Abstract Two new species of the genus *Micropeplus* Latreille from Sichuan, China are described under the names of *M. piankouensis* **sp. nov.** and *M. parvulus* **sp. nov.** with photos. A key to the Sichuan species of *Micropeplus* is provided. All the type materials of new species were collected in the dead weeds of Piankou and Yele Nature Reserves, Sichuan, China.

Key words Micropeplinae, *Micropeplus*, new species, Sichuan, China.

The genus *Micropeplus* is a peculiar group among Staphylinid beetles for its antennae nine segmented, pronotum with prominent cells, and elytra and abdomen with strongly raised carina on surface. Up to the present, twenty species and subspecies of *Micropeplus* were reported from China, of which six were from Sichuan.

The paper is the third of the series of papers dealing with the *Micropeplus* of China (Zheng *et al.*, 2013; Zheng *et al.*, 2014). In this paper, two new species, which were collected in the dead weeds, are described from Sichuan, China: *M. piankouensis* **sp. nov.** and *M. parvulus* **sp. nov.**

The specimens examined from Sichuan and Zhejiang were deposited in Life Science College, China West Normal University (holotype and paratypes of *Micropeplus xiaoae* and *M. songi*) and Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences (holotype and paratypes of *M. dentatus*), respectively. All the type specimens are deposited in the Life Science College, China West Normal University, Sichuan.

Descriptions were made under an Olympus SZX9 stereomicroscope. Color photos were taken by a digital camera (Olympus C-7070) attached to stereomicroscope.

Micropeplus Latreille

Micropeplus Latreille, 1809: 377. Type species: *Staphylinus porcatus* Paykull, 1789.

Key to species of *Micropeplus* Latreille of Sichuan.

1. Elytra impunctate *M. piankouensis* **sp. nov.**
Elytra punctate 2
2. Body larger, 1.8–2.7 mm, tergite 7 of abdomen with three carinae at base of tergite 3
Body smaller, 1.5–1.6 mm, tergite 7 of abdomen with one carina at base of tergite *M. parvulus* **sp. nov.**
3. Aedeagus with symmetric parameres 4
Aedeagus with asymmetric parameres 5
4. Median lobe relatively short and strongly narrowed in apical third towards the apex *M. nomurai* Watanabe
Median lobe relatively long and tapered in apical third towards the apex *M. uenoi* Watanabe
5. Right paramere widened strongly in apical third and with one long and one short subapical setae, left with two long ones
..... *M. songi* Zheng, Li & Yan
Right paramere widened slightly in apical third and only with one short seta, left with a short one *M. xiaoae* Zheng, Yan & Li

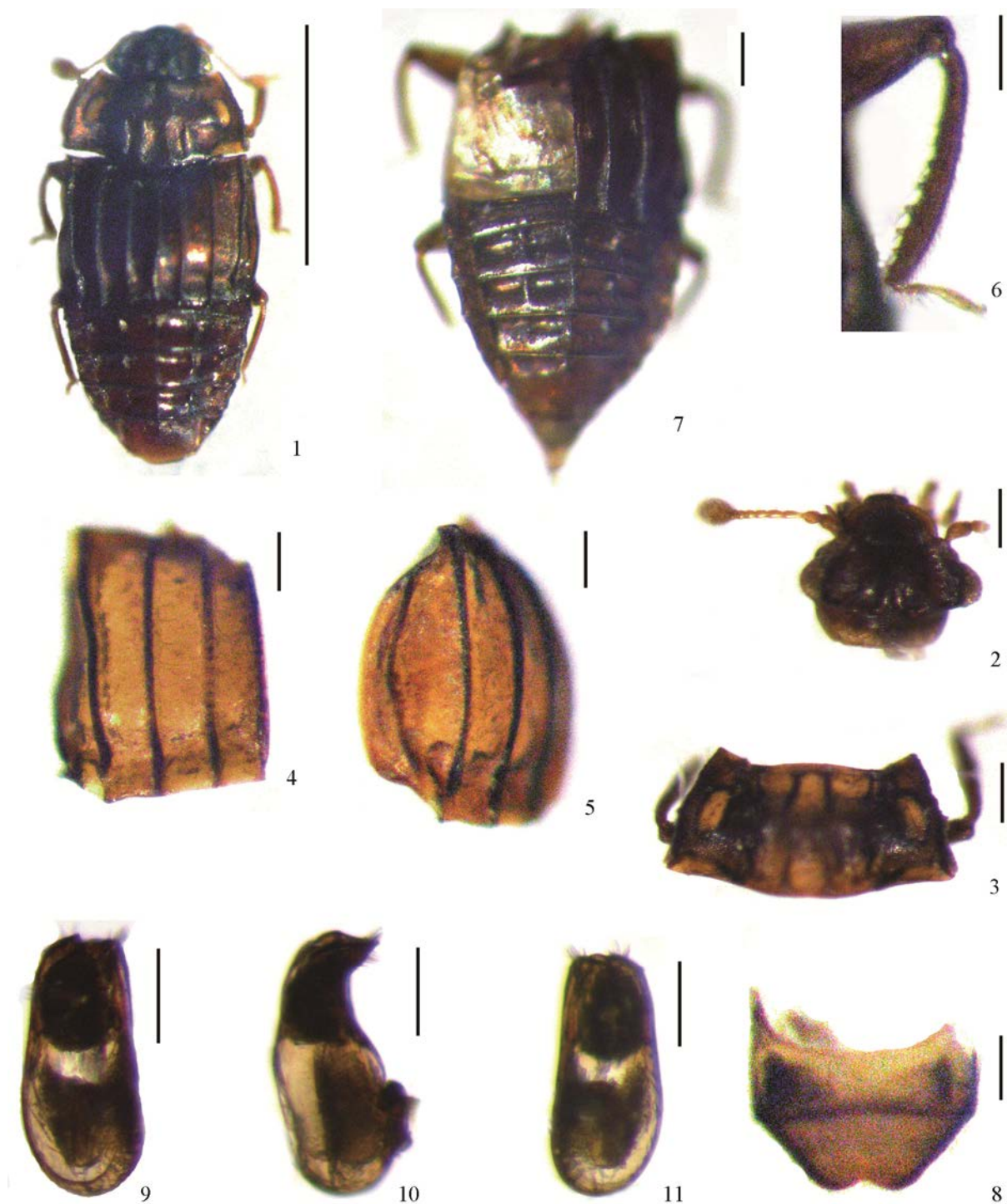
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***Micropeplus piankouensis* sp. nov.** (Figs 1–11)

Diagnosis. The new species is very similar to *M. dentatus* Zhao & Zhou, 2004 from Zhejiang, China, but it can be distinguished from the latter by humeral costa of elytra distinctly sinuate, male mesotibia with series of 5–6 larger denticles on inner margin at apical half, and aedeagus obviously different in shape. This species is also similar to *M. yunnanus* Watanabe & Xiao, 1996 from Yunnan and *M. nitidipennis* Campbell, 1995 from Taiwan, but its each elytron has 2 discal costae, pseudepipleural costa obsolete between humeral and epipleural costae



Figures 1–11. *Micropeplus piankouensis* sp. nov. 1. Male, dorsal habitus. 2. Head. 3. Pronotum. 4. Elytra. 5. Epipleura. 6. Mesotibia. 7. Abdominal tergites 3–7. 8. Male eighth sternite. 9. Aedeagus, ventral view. 10. Aedeagus, lateral view. 11. Aedeagus, dorsal view. Scale bars: 1 = 1 mm; 2–11 = 0.1 mm.

Description. Male. Head black, pronotum, elytra and abdomen reddish brown to blackish brown; antennae, maxillary and labial palpi, and legs yellowish brown to reddish brown.

Length 1.8–1.9 mm.

Head subtriangular, very transverse, about 1.8 times as broad as long, narrower than pronotum (ratio 0.57); vertex with longitudinal median carina extending from level of middle of eyes to base of head, area on each side of carina slightly impressed, one oblique carina at middle of inner side of each eye, and space between carinae granulate; clypeus visible from above, with slightly deflexed anterior margin and granulate surface. Antennae nine-segmented, usually receding onto the ventral surface of pronotum for their reception; segment 1 robust than segments 2–8, lightly opaque and shorter than segments 2 and 3 combined; segment 2 slightly shorter and narrower than 1; segment 3–6 gradually decreasing in length, longer than broad and narrower than segment 2; segment 7–8 transverse; apical segment largest and oval, with dense pubescence.

Pronotum subtrapezoidal, about 2.47 times as broad as long, widest at base, shorter than elytra (ratio 0.56) and slightly narrower than elytra (ratio 0.96); sides irregularly sinuate, with some small teeth; anterior margin broadly emarginated and almost straight in middle, posterior margin bisinuate; anterior angles produced forwards, posterior ones almost rectangular; surface finely granulate; lateral areas broadly explanate; median area elevated dorsally, with eight cells enclosed by costae, three in anterior half and remaining five in posterior half.

Scutellum subtriangular, apex slightly rounded.

Elytra subquadrate, about 1.31 times as broad as long, slightly widened apicad, diacal area strongly convex, abruptly and transversely depressed in apical fourth along apical margin; each elytron with four costae, one sutural, two discal and one humeral; sutural costa and two discal costae straight, each extending through whole length of elytra; humeral costa distinctly sinuate and abbreviated in front of apical margin; interspaces of costae impunctate; pseudopleural costa obsolete between humeral and epipleural costae. Wings developed.

Median impression of metasternum slightly broad, elongate, more than half as long as metasternum. Mesotibia with series of 5–6 short denticles on inner margin at apical half.

Abdomen gradually narrowed apicad, tergites 3–7 each strongly transversely depressed at basal half, tergites 4–6 each with three longitudinal carinae throughout length of tergite, tergite 7 only with one median longitudinal carina abbreviated in apical third; apical margin of sternite 8 shallowly triangularly emarginated, and slightly depressed before emargination.

Aedeagus almost symmetrical; median lobe curving to ventral side in apex; parameres each fused with median lobe, slender and almost as long as median lobe, each with four or five apical setae.

Female. Unknown.

Material examined. Holotype. ♂, China, Sichuan, Piankou Nature Reserve, Beichuan County (32°02′–32°12′N, 104°10′–104°26′E, elev. 1535 m), 24 September 2005, coll. Cuicui Wang. Paratype. 1♂, the same data as holotype. Type materials are deposited in the Life Science College, China West Normal University, Sichuan.

Habitat and Distribution. The species was found in the dead weeds, it is present known from the type locality in Western Sichuan.

Etymology. The specific epithet is derived from Piankou, the type locality.

Micropeplus parvulus sp. nov. (Figs 12–17)

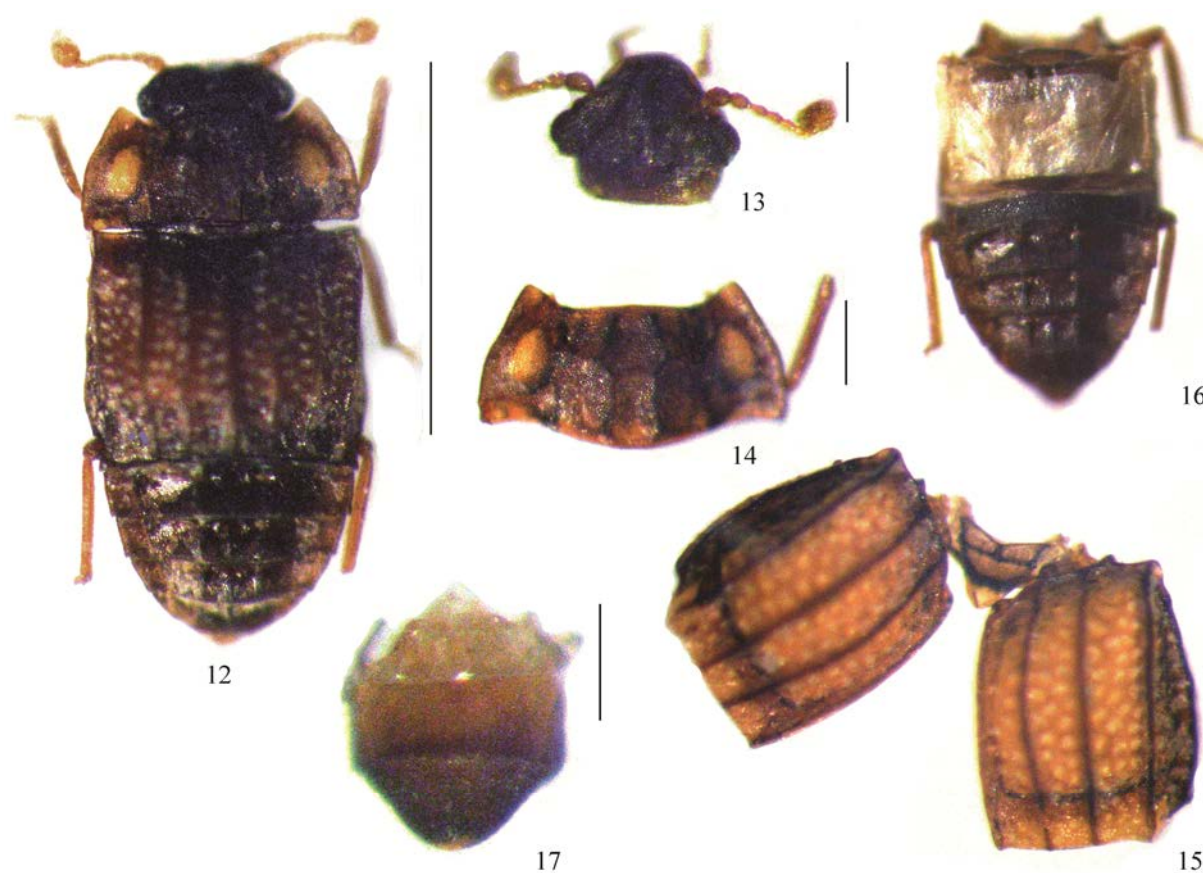
Diagnosis. This species is very similar to *Micropeplus rougemonti* Watanabe, 1995 from Yunnan, but it may be distinguished from the latter by body smaller, each elytron only with two discal costae, pseudopleural costa obsolete between humeral and epipleural costae, and tergite 7 of abdomen only with one longitudinal carina.

Description. Female. Head black, pronotum and elytra reddish brown, abdomen blackish brown; antennae, maxillary and labial palpi, and legs yellowish brown to reddish brown.

Length 1.5–1.6 mm.

Head subtriangular, very transverse, about 2.0 times as broad as long, narrower than pronotum (ratio 0.53); anterior margin of head broadly arcuate. Vertex with longitudinal median carina extending from level of middle of eyes to base of head, area on each side of carina slightly impressed, one oblique carina at inner side of each eye, space between carinae granulate. Clypeus visible from above, with slightly deflexed anterior margin and granulate surface. Antennae nine-segmented, usually receding onto the ventral surface of pronotum for their reception; segment 1 robust than segments 2–8, lightly opaque and shorter than segments 2 and 3 combined; segment 2 slightly shorter and narrower than segment 1 and narrowed apicad; segment 3–6 gradually decreasing in length, longer than broad and narrower than segment 2; segment 7–8 transverse; apical segment largest and oval, with dense pubescence.

Pronotum subtrapezoidal, about 2.5 times as broad as long, widest at base, shorter than elytra (ratio 0.52) and about



Figures 12–17. *Micropeplus parvulus* sp. nov. 12. Female, dorsal habitus. 13. Head. 14. Pronotum. 15. Elytra. 16. Abdominal tergites 3–7. 17. Female eighth sternite. Scale bars: 12 = 1 mm; 13–17 = 0.1 mm.

equal in width to it; sides irregularly sinuate; anterior margin broadly emarginated and almost straight in middle, posterior margin bisinuate; anterior angles produced forwards, posterior ones almost rectangular; surface finely granulate; lateral areas broadly explanate; median area elevated dorsally, with six cells enclosed by costae, three in anterior half and remaining three in posterior half.

Scutellum subtriangular, apical margin slightly triangularly produced.

Elytra subquadrate, about 1.25 times as broad as long, slightly widened apicad, discal area strongly convex, abruptly and transversely depressed in apical one fifth along apical margin; each elytron with four costae, one sutural, two discal and one humeral; four costae straight, each extending through whole length of elytra; interspaces of costae with irregular rows of coarse punctures, 1st interspace with two rows, 2nd with two to three rows, 3rd with three to four rows; pseudopipleural costa obsolete between humeral and epipleural costae. Wings developed. Median impression of metasternum slightly broad, elongate, more than half as long as metasternum.

Abdomen gradually narrowed apicad; tergites 4–7 each strongly transversely depressed at basal half; tergites 4–6 each with three longitudinal carinae throughout length of tergite; tergite 7 only with one longitudinal carina abbreviated in apical third; surface of each tergite impunctate, finely granulate and with fine and dense microsculpture of transverse striae; sternite 8 broadly rounded at middle of apical margin.

Male. Unknown.

Material examined. Holotype. ♀, China, Sichuan, Yele Nature Reserve, Mianning County (28°50'–29°00'N, 101°59'–102°16'E; elev. 3400 m), 8 August 2005, coll. Dianyuan Song. Paratype. 1 ♀, the same data as holotype. Type specimens are deposited in the Life Science College, China West Normal University, Sichuan.

Habitat and Distribution. The species was collected the dead weeds, it is present known from the type locality in western Sichuan.

Etymology. The specific epithet is derived from the Latin "*parvulus*" (small), it refers to the smaller size of the new species.

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